

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 27 April 1971

25X1 1. ( [ ] - JMM) Called Representative Charles Bennett as follow-up to my earlier meeting with him regarding a public denial of allegations that the Agency is involved in assassination. (See Journals of 20 and 21 April 1971.) I told Mr. Bennett the Director had considered the problem further but remained of the opinion that little could be accomplished by any sort of public statement at this stage. Mr. Bennett said he appreciated our position but personally felt that not only the Agency but the country was paying a heavy price for allowing suspicions on this matter to persist. I said the Committee was already in possession of the Director's denial that we were engaging in assassinations and we would of course defer to the Committee judgment as to whether, and if so how, this information might be used in public. Mr. Bennett said a majority of the Committee did not share his view and therefore it was unrealistic to think the Committee would take any action. He added the problem was one for the Agency, or at least someone in the Executive Branch, perhaps in the White House, to determine. I said I would report our conversation to the Director, and Mr. Bennett said he didn't know what he would do, that he had a lot of other problems to worry about but he was still very worried about this one. I thanked him for his concern.

25X1 2. [ ] - JMM) Called William Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, to ask him when he would be available to meet with Colonel White, Mr. Tweedy and me preparatory to the Director's appearance before the "Intelligence" Subcommittee of Senate Appropriations Committee in mid-May in connection with the community budget. Woodruff said he would not be available this week and would call us next week to make a date. In response to my question, he said he didn't know whether the Chairman visualized the Director appearing jointly with the Directors of DIA and NSA but Woodruff would favor this if it would help accomplish the purpose of the meeting.

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25X1 8. [ ] - JGO) Met with Mr. Richard Barton, Employee Benefits Subcommittee staff, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, who gave me a copy of the tentative hearing schedule on investigation of privacy legislation. Hearings are tentatively scheduled for 11 May through 27 May with Chairman Robert Hampton, of the Civil Service Commission, confirmed for 12 May. It is Mr. Barton's present opinion that Chairman Hampton will be the principal Administration witness. He is attempting, however, to schedule also a representative from the Department of Defense for the same date, 12 May; Justice for 13 May; and State Department for 27 May. In keeping with this Agency's letter to Chairman Hanley requesting a meeting with him, any questions of Agency appearance will await the outcome of that meeting. Chairman Hanley is out of the country until 3 May but it is Mr. Barton's hope that Chairman Hanley will schedule an Agency meeting with him as soon as possible after his return.

In response to my question, Mr. Barton told me that if it should be necessary for the Agency to appear and testify in order to gain full exemption from the pending legislation, Committee rules would require approval of the full Committee for hearings in executive session by the Subcommittee. Such approval could not be obtained before the full Committee meeting the week of 12 May. I thanked Mr. Barton for his advice.

9. (Unclassified - JGO) Met with Mr. Tim Glidden, Legislative Assistant to Representative Harold Runnels (D., N. Mex.), member of House Armed Services Committee, who told me that the Representative was hospitalized at Bethesda as a result of a bug he picked up on his trip to Vietnam. His staff is in hopes that medical checks will not indicate anything serious. Representative Runnels had requested additional information on the SS-9 during the Director's briefing of House Armed Services Committee.

25X1 25X1A 10. [ ] - GLC) [ ], Personnel, called to alert us to the fact that Representative Clarence Long (D., Md.) has been in touch with the 25X1A Bureau of Employees' Compensation by telephone concerning the case of [ ] 25X1A [ ] a former Agency employee who suffered a heart attack some time after resigning from the Agency. No action is required by this office.